REMARKS

Claims 23-38 are all the claims pending in the application. By this Amendment, Applicant cancels claims 2-8, 15, and 21 and adds claims 23-38. Claims 23-38 are clearly supported throughout the specification *e.g.*, pages 10-12 of the specification.

Prior Art Rejections

Since claims 2-8, 15, and 21 are canceled, the issued rejections are rendered moot. New claims are patentable over the prior art of record for at least the following reasons.

Independent claim 23, among a number of unique features, recites: "a clearer configured to clear the data buffer if the detector detects that the printer cable is unplugged after a transmission of the printing data has started, and not to clear the data buffer if the detector detects that the printer cable is unplugged when the transmission of the printing data has not started."

In the exemplary embodiment of the present invention, data is cleared when the cable is unplugged provided however, the transmission of the printing data has started. That is, even when the cable is unplugged but the transmission of the printing data has not started, the data already present in the data buffer will remain there. It will be appreciated that the foregoing remarks relate to the invention in a general sense, the remarks are not necessarily limitative of any claims and are intended only to help the Examiner better understand the distinguishing aspects of the claims mentioned above.

The combined teachings of U.S. Patent No. 6,665,082 to Takeoka (hereinafter "Takeoka"), U.S. Patent No. 5,924,802 to Sakurai (hereinafter "Sakurai"), U.S. Patent No.

5,684,934 to Chen (hereinafter "Chen"), U.S. Patent No. 5,991,542 to Han (hereinafter "Han"), and U.S. Patent No. 5,978,921 to Ryu (hereinafter "Ryu") fail to disclose or suggest at least these unique features of claim 23.

Takeoka only discloses a printer which erases the image data stored in the RAM 22 when the printer receives the printer deactivation command from the printer controller 10. That is, Takeoka only discloses that when the printing has ended, the image data is deleted from the RAM (col. 12, lines 58 to 65). In other words, in Takeoka, the data will be cleared from the RAM 22 during the deactivation process and not when the cable is unplugged after the transmission of a print data has started.

Sakurai, on the other hand, only discloses a host computer 100 which detects whether or not the connection cable between the printer and the host computer is connected. That is, Sakurai does not teach or suggest a clearer that would clear the printing data when the cable is unplugged after the transmission of a print data has started and not clear the buffer when the cable is unplugged by transmission of the printing data has not started.

Chen, the newly found reference, discloses that when an error is detected at any one of the following error detection units 6A, 6B, 6C, 6D, the detecting unit transmits a signal 17, 29, 31, 33 containing location information and counter value. This location and count becomes part of a more general error feedback signal 35 which is passed to the print system manager 2 and clear printstream unit 37. When an error feedback signal 35 is received by the clear printstream unit 37, the clear printstream unit sends commands to clear the printer controller printstream upstream of the error point (Fig. 3; col. 4, lines 12 to 16).

In Chen, if for example an error is detected in unit 6B, the clear printstream unit will clear all logical sheets and pages in both the sheet tracking unit and build sheet unit. The same would be true if an error was detected at unit 6C or 6D, but additionally the operator would have to manually clear the jammed sheets from the portion of the printstream upstream of the jam point in the printer engine 4. If, alternately, the error reported to the clear printstream unit 37 came from unit 6A via signal 17 and general error feedback 35, then only the logical pages in the build sheet unit 15 would be cleared (Fig. 3; col. 4, lines 16 to 26).

Chen, however, only discloses a print system which clears the printstream when an error occurs. Chen does not disclose or suggest clearing the printstream after the transmission of print data has started when the cable is unplugged.

In short, the combined teachings of Takeoka, Sakurai, and Chen, fail to teach or suggest a clearer which would clear the data buffer when the detector detects that the printer cable is unplugged after the transmission of a print data has started, but which would not clear the data buffer when the detector detects that the printer cable is unplugged when the transmission of printing data has not started. Han and Ryu do not cure the deficient teachings of Takeoka, Sakurai, and Chen.

For at least these exemplary reasons, claim 23 is patentable over the prior art of record. Claims 24-30 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency on claim 23.

Claim 31 recite features similar to, although not necessarily coextensive with, the features argued above with respect to claim 23. Accordingly, analogous arguments are applicable to claim 31. For at least similar exemplary reasons, therefore, claim 31 is patentable over the

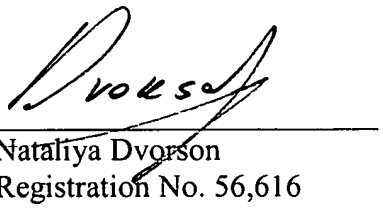
combined teachings of Takeoka, Sakurai, Chen, Han, and Ryu. Claims 32-38 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency on claim 31.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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